After decontrol, the prices of molasses are not being monitored by the Government.

(b) to (d): In order to look into various issues arising out of decontrol of molasses and alcohol, a Working Group of State Excise Ministers on molasses and alcohol was set up in the Excise Ministers Conferencne held on 4.11.93. The main recommendation of the Working Group are for partial control on distribution of molasses and alcohol. The Report was placed before the Excise Ministers Conference held recently. The views of the State Governments on the recommendations of the Working Group are being examined alongwith their legal implications.

Loans to Women of North Eastern States from Rashtriya Mahila Kosh

2474. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced provision of loan system to the women of North-Eastern States from Rashtriya Mahila Kosh during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(b) if so, the total number of women benefited so far from this kosh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMEDNT (DEPTT. OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT)(SMT. BASAVA RAJESHWARI): (a) and (b) The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh is a body with all India jurisdiction which was registered on 30.3.1993. Loans are given to individual beneficiaries through identified intermediary agencies. The first loan assistance in North-Eastern States was extended in 1994-95 to cover 2000 beneficiaries.

Teaching of Courses in Hindi Medium in Ignou

2475. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister for HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indira Gandhi National Open University proposes to start the teaching of all the courses in Hindi medium from the current academic session which were being taught in English medium;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the courses taught in english are likely to be available in Hindi medium in the University; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE)): (KM. SELJA): (a) to (d) According to information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), 21 programmes are offered in both Hindi and English. In seven other progrmmes, which are offered in English, the students are permitted to write the assignments and terminal examinations in Hindi medium also. 85 programmes, most of which are professional/ technical in nature are offered in English only. While it would be the endeavour of the Uiversity to progressively offer as many programmes as possible in both English and Hindi, it would take time to offer every programme in Hindi as the preparation of self-instructional material of high quality involves a number of processes such as getting material translated and identification of suitable experts in translation, vetting of translated material by other experts; etc. before getting them printed.

The Delhi Rent Bill

2476. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 638, 678 and 683 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th August, 1995 regarding the Delhi Rent Bill and state:

(a) whether Government have come to any final conclusion in respect of the representations received for and against the Delhi Rent Bill, which has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament and is awaiting the assent of the President if so, the present position in this regard;

(b) the details of the suggestions made for and against the amendment of the Bill and Government's response thereto; and

(c) by when the Bill is likely to become an Act and come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Government has received representations both infavour of the Delhi Rent Bill, 1995 and against certain provisions of the Bill relating mainly to deemed rent, registration of tenancy agreement, inheritibility of tenancy, rate of enhancement of rent and recovery of possession of premises. These are under consideration.

(c) Bill is awaiting the assent of the President.

Steps Taken to Prevent Destitution of Women

2477. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women beggars hauled up in the Capital and other metropolis during 1993-94, 1994-95 and so far in 1995-96;

(b) the number of women and girls who took to prostitution in these metropolis during these years, as per Government assessment or records and the total population of prostitutes there; and

(c) whether these figures represent only a tip of the ice-berg of destitution of women in society, if so, the effective steps taken to prevent such destitution of women?;

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) According to Government of NCT of Delhi, the number of women beggars hauled up in the Capital during 1993-94 to 1995 is as under:

1993-94 :	134
1995 :	284
(Upto July, 95) :	114

The information regarding other three metropolis is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(b): According the Home Department, Government of NCT of Delhi, the number of women and girls arrested under section 294 Indian Penal Code and Immoral Traffic (Prevcention) Act, 1956 during the years 1993 to 1995 (upto 31st July, 1995) is as under:

Year	Women		Girls	
	u/s 294	IPC ITP	u/s 294	IPC ITP
1993	96	266	17	46
1994	53	223	14	38
1995	38	112	14	13

The information regarding other these metropolis is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(c): The Government of India enacted the Immoral Traffic, (Prevention) Act, 1956, as amended in 1978 and 1986 to check prostitution. The Act supplements the provisions of the substantive laws against kidnapping, sale, abduction and wrongful detention of women and girls. The Act also envisages setting up of protective homes and corrective institutions for the care, protection, treatment, education and rehabilitation of the resmued women and girls. The implementation of this Act rests with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

Besides this Act, the Government of India has taken steps in areas such as education, awareness generation, economic empowerment, legal literacy, counselling, legal-aid, enforcement, support to voluntary agencies, publicity campaign etc. with a view to elevating the status of women which would reduce their exploitation and vulnerability to social, cultural and economic oppression.

Feasiblity of Peninsular Rivers Linkage Project

2478. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the daily "Hindu' dated the 17th July, 1995 about a letter written by the Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources to Dr. Udaya Marthy, State Convenor of Makhal Sakhti Syakkaram, about Peninsular rivers linkage project; and